

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER SECTO 20107)

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

O:MR. BAKER

P:PCHABIB

/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197956

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FOR AMBASSADOR SCRANTON FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: SINAI BUFFER ZONE

REF: USUN 2994

1. SINCE WE DO NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DEALING WITH THE BUFFER ZONE ISSUE, BUT RATHER CONSIDER IT AN APPROPRIATE MATTER FOR THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN JOINT COMMISSION, I WOULD PREFER NOT TO REPLY DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER OF JULY 21.

2. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH URQUHART, THEREFORE, AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO HIM:

-- WE BELIEVE THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES OVER SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SINAI BUFFER ZONE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE NORMAL WAY IN THE JOINT COMMISSION. WE UNDERSTAND
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THAT GENERAL SIILVASVUO WAS DUE BACK IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THE END OF LAST WEEK. HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE, INCLUDING THE INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS IN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI WORKING GROUP IN GENEVA FOLLOWING SIGNATURE OF THE SINAI II AGREEMENT. IN THE PAST SIILASVUO HAS BEEN ABLE TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES ON THIS ISSUE IN PRACTICAL TERMS, AND IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS IS THE BEST

WAY TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM.

-- BECAUSE OF OUR DESIRE TO KEEP THIS ISSUE IN THE JOINT COMMISSION CHANNEL AND OUR CONFIDENCE THAT IT CAN BE HANDLED THERE EFFECTIVELY, WE WILL NOT BE REPLYING FORMALLY TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S JULY 21 LETTER. WHEN THE SECRETARY NEXT SEES THE SECRETARY GENERAL, HOWEVER, HE PLANS TO MENTION THIS TO HIM. ROBINSON

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